



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, May 19, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Domestic Programs

Ralstonia - No new samples have been submitted to the USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST Lab, Beltsville, MD, since May 7, 2003, and no confirmed positives have been reported since April 28, 2003. As of May 19, 2003, APHIS confirmed detections of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3, biovar 2 on geraniums still stands at 27 States and 127 establishments (excluding the MI and NH rooting stations). The number of positive testing facilities in each State remains the same, tallied as follows: AL (9), AR (2), CO (1), DE (1), GA (2), ID (1), IL (4), IN (4), IA (6), KS (3), KY (1), MD (3), ME (1), MI (12), MN (4), MO (6), NH (1), NJ (1), NY (3), NC (13), OH (7), PA (8), SC (8), TN (1), TX (7), VA (10), and WI (7). There are currently 10 nurseries still on hold in only one state- Michigan. A total of 911 nurseries have been released.

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Grasshopper - Mormon cricket suppression programs have been conducted in Nevada, Utah, and Washington. Requests for Mormon cricket treatments are expected soon from California. Idaho is preparing to conduct Mormon cricket suppression programs using only carbaryl bait, however, inclement weather has retarded the development of Mormon cricket outbreaks in some areas. Grasshoppers are beginning to hatch in the 17 Western States and survey efforts are just beginning. Early survey results indicate that overwintering, bandwinged grasshoppers may again be a problem in Nebraska as was the case in 2002.

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Environmental Monitoring - Observed and assisted in environmental monitoring of an aerial diflubenzuron

treatment for Mormon crickets near Reno, NV. The treatment and monitoring proceeded successfully.

Risks to the environment and public health from imidicloprid treatments for ALB control were presented at a public meeting in Jersey City, NJ. Additional information on past and continuing environmental monitoring of ALB treatments were provided to a representative of the local press. No opposition to the program was expressed at the meeting

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Noxious weed - The initial U.S. field release of the South American leaf-feeding beetle, *Gratiana boliviana*, a biological control agent of Tropical Soda Apple, a Federal Noxious Weed, was conducted on May 14th. USDA Under Secretary Bill Hawks was among those attending the event. The program is a cooperative effort involving Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, and USDA. PPQ is providing \$30,000 for the rearing and release of the beetles.

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Invasive Species - On May 12 -13, 2003, the Economic Research Service (ERS) of USDA hosted a workshop on the economics of invasive species. ERS is planning to complete economic studies of invasive species issues in FY03 and the workshop will help inform ERS work. It was well attended by APHIS employees.

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Soybean Rust - Drs. Reid Frederick (ARS) and Mary Palm (PPQ) conducted a "Train the Trainers" workshop on the biology and identification of soybean rust. The workshop was held Wednesday, April 30, at the ARS facility in Ft. Detrick with the goal of familiarizing the participants with the disease, how to diagnose the disease morphologically, and what steps to take when suspect samples are received as per the Strategic Plan. Ten participants from the CSREES diagnostic hubs and



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related diagnostic clinics were invited to attend (limited to ten because of space/shower limitations in the containment facility) and will provide training to others in their diagnostic hub regions. Participants were able to observe plants infected with both *Phakopsora pachyrhizi* and *P. meibomiae*, observe spores microscopically and see a demonstration of the Real-Time PCR test. They were provided a CD with the SBR Strategic Plan, copies of the PowerPoint presentations given, images of the disease and the fungus, a Form 391 and instructions on how to submit suspect samples for final identification, and other materials to use in their training efforts. It was agreed that the training was beneficial for both participants and presenters. (Source: Mary Palm).

The USDA, Office of Pest Management Policy began review and feedback to soybeans States regarding the draft national Section 18 template for soybeans. The preliminary chemicals are: propiconazole, tebuconazole, myclobutanil, and a combination product of trifloxystrobin and propiconazole (aka Stratego). The National Plant Board has expressed their satisfaction at the present progress. A consensus was achieved that a quarantine exemption should not be submitted, rather a specific exemption. Next Section 18 Workgroup meeting is planned for May 22, 2003. The Minor Legumes Section 18 Team is still contemplating their choice of chemicals but they have concluded, based on a lack of feedback, the SBR impact on minor legumes is expected to be minimal.

Assisting CSREES and ARS respond to initial concerns expressed by the American Seed Trade Association regarding a proposed comparative efficacy trial at the University of Hawaii facilities to generate additional efficacy data. Awaiting word from the American Soybean Association regarding the proposed ARS trials in the Hawaii. Performed liaison between APHIS and ASA regarding APHIS safeguarding procedures for Brazilian shipments.

Began receiving efficacy information from registrants for posting on the Regional IPM Centers websites. (Source: Teung Chin)

PPQ provided Under Secretary Hawks an overview of the Agency's Soybean Rust activities since the disease was first reported in Brazil early last spring. The briefing described collaboration among PPQ, International Services, CSREES, ARS, and the soybean industry and future actions to be undertaken by PPQ. (Source: Bob Spaide)

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Emergency Programs

Citrus Canker - The cooperative citrus canker eradication program being conducted by APHIS and the State of Florida suffered a slight setback on May 13, when a Miami Circuit Court judge refused to sign warrants that are required to access residential properties in order to cut down exposed trees. For nearly two years an injunction granted by a Broward County Circuit Court judge had prevented the State from removing exposed trees - these are trees that do not currently appear to be infected, but are within 1,900 ft. of infected trees. The injunction was recently overturned by a State District Court of Appeals, and the State was beginning to remove a backlog of over 200,000 exposed trees in Southeast Florida. Research has shown that significant numbers of these trees will eventually show evidence of citrus canker, and that the removal of these trees is an important component of the eradication program. Removal of exposed trees is now being carried out in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, and the project believes the issues raised by the Miami judge can be resolved in the near future.

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Asian Longhorned Beetle - Chemical treatments started in Illinois, on April 24, 2003. Treatments are progressing well and as planned. Approximately 94,000 trees are targeted for treatment this year.

In New Jersey, a public meeting was held at City Hall in Jersey City, New Jersey, on the evening of May 13th. The purpose of this meeting was to notify the residents of Jersey City and Hoboken about the spring ALB



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chemical treatment program. A reporter from the Jersey Journal attended and will run an article about the treatment program and ALB in the Sunday edition of the newspaper. No issues surfaced as a result of the meeting. Chemical treatments are scheduled to begin on May 20th. Within the area of ¼ mile to ½ mile of the infestation, all host trees will be chemically treated. There are approximately 1,057 trees targeted for treatment. The program was successful at removing and destroying all the host trees within the ¼ mile radius of the infestation earlier this spring. Forest Service has already begun tree replacement for the trees removed.

Due to inadequate funding this year, chemical treatments in New York will be drastically reduced. The program plans to treat only the infested area of Islip, Long Island and portions of the infestations located on Manhattan. Only 5,400 of the required 143,000 trees in New York will be treated this year, unless the program secures additional funds quickly. In addition, four survey contracts for bucket trucks and tree climbers will be terminated in New York effective May 23, 2003. Contact: Mike Stefan (301) 734-4387

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Pest Detection – The Western Region (WR) conducted a training workshop for the 9 newly hired Pest Survey Specialists in Ft. Collins, CO, this past week. Others included in the workshop were the WR State Plant Health Directors, WR and Eastern Region (ER) program managers and Headquarters personnel. Topics covered included legal authorities, national direction of the Pest Detection program, NAPIS training, a pest risk assessment overview and hands-on case studies related to pest detection. Another training workshop will be held for the remainder of the positions in the WR and ER once they are hired.

The final draft of the CAPS Guide will be sent out to the National CAPS committee members this week. The National CAPS Committee Members will be seeking input and comments from those they represent and changes will be finalized and then sent to the Professional Development Center (PDC) for editing and formatting. When completed, the CAPS Guide will be

posted on the PPQ Pest Detection and NAPIS websites. The draft Volunteer Guidelines will also be sent out this week to Regional and National CAPS committees for review and input. Feedback on both documents is due by June 6, 2003.

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